

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /061 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:MDION:NR
APPROVED BY USOAS:REWHITE
ARA/CAR - MR. HEAVNER
ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
ARA/CEN - WMATTHEWS

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R 272055Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAS, GY

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS RAISES GUYANA'S ADMISSION
TO THE OAS

REF: GEORGETOWN 1632

1. DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED FONMIN WILLS BELIEVES GUYANA'S
ADMISSION TO THE OAS WOULD DRAW THE GOG CLOSER TO WESTERN
HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES AND HAVE A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON
RELATIONSHIPS. AS HE KNOWS, US HAS TAKEN LEADING ROLE IN
COOPERATION WITH ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS IN
EFFORT TO REMOVE ARTICLE 8 OF OAS CHARTER. OUR STAND HAS
BEEN BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP, RATHER
THAN SPONSORSHIP OF ANY PARTICULAR STATE'S CANDIDACY. AS
CHARGE CORRECTLY POINTED OUT, SECRETARY VANCE SPOKE IN
FAVOR OF REPEAL AS RECENTLY AS GRENADA OASGA. WE FAVOR
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EARLY ADMISSION OF GUYANA AND OTHER INDEPENDENT STATES OF
THE HEMISPHERE AS PART OF MOVE TOWARD FULL REGIONAL
PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAS.

2. REGARDING CUBA'S RETURN TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, WE
HAVE NO INDICATION CUBA HAS REVERSED ITS LONGSTANDING
OPPOSITION TO OAS OR IS INTERESTED IN RESUMING FULL MEMBER-

SHIP. IF CUBA SOUGHT TO REENTER OAS COUNCILS, MAJORITY VOTE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO LIFT CURRENT BAN BUT WE SEE NO MOVEMENT IN THIS DIRECTION FROM EITHER SIDE.

3. VENEZUELA HAS MADE NO RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT EXCLUDING GUYANA FROM THE OAS. SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION TO REMOVING ARTICLE 8 COMES FROM GUATEMALA, WHICH FEARS OPENING THE WAY FOR BELIZE TO JOIN. ARGENTINA, WITH AN EYE ON THE FALKLANDS, WAS ONCE VOCAL SUPPORTER OF GUATEMALA'S POSITION BUT HAS FALLEN SILENT IN RECENT MONTHS. FYI. IN GENERAL, GUATEMALA'S POSITION IN THE OAS IS ERODING FAST. END FYI.

4. SUPPORT FOR RETENTION OF ARTICLE 8 ON GROUNDS OF OPPOSITION TO MEMBERSHIP OF ONE OR ANOTHER COUNTRY SEEMS TO BE DECLINING BUT NEW UNKNOWN IS INCREASING SENSE OF LATIN AMERICAN CONCERN AT IMMINENT PROSPECTS OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 5-10 ENGLISH-SPEAKING STATES IN THE CARIBBEAN. FEAR OF DRASTIC SHIFT IN VOTING BALANCE OF THE OAS COULD TRANSLATE INTO LINGERING RESISTANCE TO ARTICLE 8 REPEAL, THOUGH NO REAL EVIDENCE YET TO SHOW THIS IS A TREND. IF GUYANA REOPENS CASE FOR OAS MEMBERSHIP, AND RECEIVES STRONG BACKING FROM OTHER ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEMBERS, DEBATE ON ARTICLE 8 WOULD REOPEN AND MIGHT EVENTUALLY LEAD TO REPEAL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBER ADMISSIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE176014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDION:NR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770270-0610
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770712/aaaaakml.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d02f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 1632
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1731091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS RAISES GUYANA'S ADMISSION TO THE OAS
TAGS: PORG, GY, US, OAS, (WILLS, FREDERICK R)
To: GEORGETOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d02f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009